

WEATHER FORECAST

CHANCE of rain or showers with occasional drizzle today to 21°C, mostly clear with isolated showers on Wednesday, mostly clear on Friday.

0-12°C/40-45°F

Second FRONT PAGE

FVR behind rape case, says John O

By Michael Lim/Star

RELICTIONIST Sen. John Orendana yesterday accused former President Fidel V. Ramos of being behind the rape complaint lodged against him by a media sex worker on Wednesday.

In a press conference, Orendana said Ramos engineered the "public hearing, job" so that the woman would be judged from the media on her 4-4 conviction date.

Junking operation

"Actually, I'm sure the target of a junking operation that is being undertaken by the police has former President Fidel Ramos," Orendana said.

Building during election season when a candidate's name is deleted from the official party list, or simply barred, is a common media operation.

Asked Ramos' reaction, Orendana said, "Because I have been a politician in registering his [Ramos] name to participate in power, I am not sharing his lot."

Orendana said his former secretary in the President's Palace, Susan "Lolita" was also tied to Ramos.

"I'm not targeting anyone; he [Ramos] is an investigation prize to him, to get his head," he said at the press conference held at the Green Room.

Former spokesperson Ed Malaya said the former president did not want to dignify Ramos's seriousness making a statement.

"The former president would never do that. It is as going to the underworld," Malaya said.

He said Orendana was "imagining things."

Malaya said Orendana targeted Ramos for his name and failed to see his political situation.

"He's not just any well-known figure; he's a strong personality," he said. "He should be respected."

He also said the rape case is a political move to target Ramos.

"The former president has a copy of the letter and he's not participating for the date in Pangasinan and other areas," Malaya said.

"Cooked-up"

"To believe that allegations of rape were cooked up by Ramos is a joke," he said. "I'm not a politician, I'm a journalist."

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legitimate story... the filing of a case in court against an incumbent public official, Orendana says, is a move to discredit himself as a media personality. He said Ramos was targeted to the story at the local level. Ramos is now the incumbent mayor in Southern Luzon.

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TV reporter feels brunt of Poe ire

By Christine O. Asencio

BOHOL CITY—Accused President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has been accused of being behind the rape complaint lodged against him by a media sex worker on Wednesday.

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Roco: Nothing wrong with religious support

By TJ Burgonio

THERE'S nothing wrong with the endorsement of presidential candidates by religious leaders, according to former Sen. Raul Roco and Tarlac Rep. Herminio Aquino of the Alyansa ng Pag-Asa.

Roco, who is seeking the presidency, said yesterday that as long as a religious leader is a Filipino citizen, he can support any candidate.

"As a lawyer, I don't see why a religious leader cannot endorse," said Roco. "If you're a citizen, you're entitled to choose and influence others."

Aquino, Roco's running mate, agreed with him. "Anybody can endorse," he said.

Roco said that he did not find questionable the traditional practice by religious leaders to vote as a bloc.

"Almost all groups vote by bloc. In Alyansa, we hope to vote by bloc. Aksyon Demokratiko votes by bloc. All groups organize so that they will vote as one," he told reporters in an interview in Tatalon, a slum village in Quezon City.

Roco was reacting to a petition filed by Bro. Mike Velarde of the influential El Shaddai

with the Supreme Court seeking to reverse a Manila regional trial court ruling that declared unconstitutional the endorsement of candidates by religious leaders.

Manila Judge Concepcion Alarcon-Vergara ruled in June last year that the head of a religious organization, who "influences or threatens to punish" members, could be held liable for coercion for violating a citizen's right to vote freely.

Roco had admitted writing to the leadership of the powerful religious group Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) to relay his intention of running for president, and that he had received a "beautiful reply." He, however, declined to divulge it.

Presidential candidates often seek the endorsement of the INC leadership, whose members vote as a bloc during elections. The group, headed by Minister Efraim Manalo, commands two to four million votes, according to reports.

Experience to carry me through—FPJ

By Christine O. Avendaño

ILOILO CITY—He may not have a professional's pedigree, but his life experiences are enough to carry him through the difficult task of handling the country's state of affairs.

"Life is in itself an experience, and I think I have been a survivor," opposition candidate Fernando Poe Jr. told reporters here, reacting to President Macapagal-Arroyo's statement to businessmen the other day that they had two options in the May elections—to go for someone with experience or for someone without any platform of government.

The President could not resist repeating her familiar line extolling the achievements of her administration, in contrast to "an untested candidate with no experience (Poe)," after acknowledging an apology from comedian Dolphy.

At the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino rally in Bohol last weekend for party standard-bearer Poe, his good friend, Dolphy had called the President "dumb" for playing innocent in the alleged scrapping of his television show at the Lopez-owned ABS-CBN television network.

The President accepted Dolphy's apology, but in a pre-birthday celebration dinner hosted by Gina de Venecia, wife of Speaker Jose De Venecia, she struck back by saying that the apology "did not remove the fact that the opposition has no platform of government, including a platform for the movie industry."

Asked to comment on the remark, Poe told reporters he had a platform for his friends in show business, but he did not give any details.

However, he said he hoped Dolphy's apology put an end to the controversy.

Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino senatorial candidates Juan Ponce Enrile, Boots Anson-Roa and Ernesto Maceda lauded Dolphy for being a gentleman by offering his apologies to the President.

Still a nuisance

By Martin P. Marfil

NO luck the second time around.

Yesterday, the Commission on Elections denied a plea filed by businessman Eddie Gil to reconsider his disqualification from the presidential race, saying that he was unable to raise substantial issues to warrant a reversal of a previous decision declaring him a "nuisance candidate."

In a decision issued by the commission en banc, the Comelec affirmed a ruling of its second division and denied Gil's motion for reconsideration filed on March 22.

The decision was signed by the seven commissioners, but one of their colleagues, Virgilio Garcillano, did not participate in the deliberations.

The case against Gil was filed by supporters of presidential candidate Bro. Eddie Villanueva who feared that if Gil was allowed to run, votes for him might be declared "stray votes" and not counted in his favor.

PREX convention

THE NATIONAL Association of Parish PREX Secretariats (NAPPS) is holding its 8th National PREX Convention on April 16 to 18 at the Easter College Gymnasium, Guisad Road, Baguio City for graduates of Parish Renewal Experience (PREX) Classes of various parishes all over the Philippines.

All graduates have been invited to attend.

The convention will tackle its theme, "The Call to Holiness," which has great importance and foreboding relevance to the current social and moral woes of our country today. Six soul-stirring and impressive talks will be delivered by speakers led by Bishops Jesus A. Cabrera, Florentino F. Cinense and Antonio B. Tobias, and Reverend Fathers Dominador Salonga, Ramon Ramos and Enrique Aloysius Alino. Mass celebrations will be led by Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo, and Bishops Carlito J. Cernosek and Gabriel V. Reyes respectively during the three-day convention.

Paper drive wins 2 awards for Inquirer

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BY LEOZ Diaz, a work, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer's* paper recycling campaign called the New Paper Drive collected five awards from both the Gold Quill and the Arnis awards.

The New Paper Drive, a program that promotes solid waste management and buys old newspapers for recycling, won the Gold Quill Award of Excellence in multimedia, social and environmental development on Tuesday, four days after taking the Arnis Award of Merit in public affairs management and communication.

The annual drive, which lacks off every year, has already recycled over 236,000 kilos of old newspapers since it started in 2001, saving a total of 4,508 trees. The drive had, in the past, received the support of the Metro Manila Industries of Environment, the implementation of Lungsod Quezon the League of Corporate Foundations, the Archdiocese of Manila, and schools, universities, companies and foundations.

The Inquirer also won the Gold Quill Award of Excellence in public relations design for its Corporate Manila Industries of Environment, the implementation of Lungsod Quezon the League of Corporate Foundations, the Archdiocese of Manila, and schools, universities, companies and foundations.

The Arnis Award of Merit was also given to the New Paper Drive. The award was given by the Agency (NRA) for the environment, public affairs and in Inquirer's Youth Reading Program—a series of activities promoting reading to assist the development of a society, create and finally creating youth—the public affairs management and communication. Last year, the recycling program garnered a Gold Quill Award of Excellence for economic, social and environmental development.



INQUIRER (center) won the second year of Inquirer's New Paper Drive and (center) on right) Inquirer president Sandy Remolona, publisher August Tyndol, and Inquirer vice president for strategic marketing communications Carlos Placencia during the 2004 Gold Quill Awards.

Mirant bags 4 PR awards

MIIRANT Philippines won four public relations awards from prestigious award giving bodies for communications and PR programs implemented last year.

The company received honors at the 2004 Arnis Awards of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) and the Gold Quill Awards of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC).

For the Arnis Awards, considered as the Oscars of Philippine public relations, Mirant won an excellence award for its communications program for its Calabac Bank Initiative, an undertaking that will preserve and protect Calabac's mangrove forests.

It also won three awards for its Internet Distribution Association for Consumer Education Program and a merit award for the Calabac Web-Video Development.

For the Gold Quill Awards, presented by IABC, Mirant won an excellence award for its Calabac Bank video development.

Receiving the Arnis and Gold Quill awards for Mirant was the Corporate Affairs and Public Affairs Manager Gregg Remolona and Corporate Communications Manager Kim de Leon. Also receiving the awards were Foundation Director the Greater Palawan College and Environmental Manager Gene Morales.

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Gueco

4 US contractors suffer grisly deaths in Iraq town

WASHINGTON—Washington vowed to stay the course in Iraq on Wednesday after four US contractors were killed and dragged through the streets in an incident that echoed a grisly 1993 attack on US soldiers in Somalia.

The four, ambushed by guerrillas as they drove through the Iraqi town of Falluja, worked for a private company called Blackwater USA that uses former US elite special operations forces to provide security services around the world.

A crowd of Iraqis set their vehicles alight, heaved stones into the burning wreckage and dragged the charred and mutilated bodies through the streets of the town, a center of resistance to the US-led occupation 50 km west of Baghdad.

Television footage of a similar incident in Somalia sickened Americans over the US mission there and was a factor in the decision to

pull US forces from the African state.

US networks showed edited film of Wednesday's killings but did not include scenes of the bodies being dragged through the streets.

The White House said the attack, and a separate incident in which five US soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb near their convoy west of Baghdad, would not deter the United States from seeking to establish democracy in Iraq following the US invasion that toppled Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"These are horrific attacks by people who are trying to prevent democracy from moving forward, but democracy is taking root," said White House spokesperson Scott McClellan, vowing that the United States would stick to a June 30 deadline to hand over power to an undefined transitional Iraqi government.

"We mourn the loss of life and there is an important effort that is well under way in Iraq to provide the Iraqi people freedom and

democracy and we will not turn back from that effort," McClellan said.

The state department said the four men killed in Falluja were US citizens, but declined to provide more information.

Blackwater Security Consulting, a part of Blackwater USA, issued a statement confirming the four were its personnel but saying the "exact identities of the victims are not known."

The Moyock, North Carolina firm's Web site, which features a man in a black mask and reflective goggles and others in combat gear pointing weapons, says its staff are "renowned for dealing with high-risk situations and complex operations."

The site which advertises courses in sharpshooting, has an aerial photograph of what it called "the most comprehensive private tactical training facility in the United States" and boasts of providing "training and tactical solutions" around the world. Reuters

Report: Bush pre-9/11 focus was on missiles, not terror

WASHINGTON—The White House's national security policy before the Sept. 11 attacks focused on the threat of long-range missiles, not on terrorism, The Washington Post said Thursday.

National security adviser Condoleezza Rice was to give a speech on Sept. 11, 2001, designed to reassure missile-defense in the aftermath of a new national security strategy and the daily rising threat of U.S. officials who said the threat.

Rice's speech, which the White House declined to release and was never delivered, criticized the administration of former U.S. President Bill Clinton for not doing enough about the real threat of

long-range missiles, the daily said.

"We need to worry about the missile threat, the air threat and the way of nature, not the way of the enemy," according to a transcript of the speech provided to the daily.

"What's why put missiles back on your doors and such up on one of them and then decide to leave your windows open?"

The daily said the White House also refused to disclose the accuracy of the transcript.

The administration of U.S. President George W. Bush is under investigation for its antiterrorism policies before and after 9/11.

Rice is due to testify under oath in an independent panel which

last week heard from former counterterrorism expert Richard Clarke, who claimed the Bush government for not taking terrorism as a threat of the dangers from major nations, such as Iraq, rather than from extremist groups.

The White House's dispute national security adviser for counterterrorism James Wickham told the Post that Bush's "commitment to fighting terrorism isn't measured by the number of speeches, but by the concrete ac-

tions taken to fight the threat."

"The first major foreign policy directive of this administration was the new strategy to eliminate al-Qaida that the White House endorsed soon after taking office. It was eliminating al-Qaida, not missile-defense, not Iraq, and not the Arab Spring," Wickham "said."

The Washington Post also said Thursday that Bush's top adviser Alberto Gonzales withdrew at least one Republican member of the 9/11 independent commission when the panel convened on March 26 to hear Clarke's testimony.

Opec to cut oil output by 1M barrels per day

HEBURN—The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will go ahead with a 10 percent oil production cut of one million barrels per day, ministers said Wednesday.

Defying OPEC calls for a delay to help ease its long-range prices.

OPEC had been urged by its members to postpone the move with oil prices close to 12-year highs and gasoline prices at record levels in the United States.

But OPEC is worried that de-

mand for crude oil will fall with the arrival of spring in the northern hemisphere and that it isn't as easy to prevent a price collapse.

The 35 nations in OPEC's quota system will implement a decision agreed on Feb. 15 to tighten production from 24.3 million bpd to 23.3 million bpd from April 1, said the energy ministers of OPEC in Qatar and Istanbul separately.

The decision was due to the announcement of Indonesia as a permanent member of the council.

OPEC President Indonesia's Tjiptjo Purnomo Nugroho said at the OPEC meeting that the council was also concerned about the low value of the dollar and the other this is having upon our petroleum revenues."

He said of the feared drop in oil demand. "It's a volatile market, and we have to be careful."

where psychology plays a prominent role, it is easy for a minor impetus to be fueled by speculation and driving into something much larger."

The OPEC oil was "a real danger to the market that we were prepared to deal with it would be such a manner that would prevent a serious deterioration in the price and a potential period of volatility," he had happened in the late 1990s.



FORMER POW Jessica Lynch, whose wounding and rescue made her the Iraq war's most famous soldier, is photo-taken March 21.

A year after, Lynch ponders fame, fate

By Gavin McCormick

CHARLESTON, West Virginia—There has more in common for former prisoners of war Jessica Lynch.

After the supply chain's wounding and rescue made her the Iraq war's most famous soldier a year ago, well-wishers have been down in her at every public appearance, whether at the White House, her home or at the Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills.

"The only a country girl. It's wonderful I've not said so, and I probably never will be," the 26-year-old Lynch said. "I do want my life back as normal, because it's hard—40 to 50 hours. But at the same time I feel like...man, I get to go to New York, I go to good schools, I get to hang out with people like Britney and Leonardo."

With help from politicians, the young woman who joined the Army to save the world and receive an education has made a handful of appearances since last year's book tour for the Iraq War's most famous soldier. Lynch, still a few weeks shy of the 28 legal driving age of 21, was an award from Glamour magazine (where she met Britney Spears), role in the Game Boy game, starred in the Golden Globe Awards (where she met Leonardo DiCaprio), and took a three-day tour in the Bahamas after celebrating a coming-of-age party.

Personal questions

She tries to shoo away photographers and photographers, most of which come from young girls. But she has turned down scores of other requests, including offers to speak at schools across the country.

"I feel bad, but I can't do those things," Lynch said. "It's the people with fans. They also struggle with questions both personal. Perhaps I go to college. I don't know if I get married. And I don't know if I'll be a mother."

"I mean, obviously, there has to be a reason," she said. "I don't know what it is yet, but I have to figure it out from things to figure it out."

She started Lynch with the first of her career the Get Me Out, a one-hour business meeting company that lives up to its name as former New York magazine's Richard Goodwin and former hotel leader Richard Goodwin.

Lynch's role in the movie "The Hot Chick" (2002), where she met MTV's Madonna, Lynch's company got her in the movie "The Hot Chick" and was announced in Hollywood.

With her vehicle stolen and her rifle jammed, Pfc. Lynch dropped into a Humvee driven by her best friend, Pfc. Lori Ponsessa. The vehicle was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade and crashed. The 21 American soldiers who died in the attack included Ponsessa and her mother in the 15 hours.

Spiritual fractures

Lynch suffered two spinal fractures, severe damage and shattered right arm, right foot and left leg, according to medical documents used in her biography. She was also sedated, apparently during a three-hour operation to control pain.

The video-captured rescue by special forces from a Humvee happened on April 4, 2003, Lynch is now at a time the US war effort around Baghdad.

It also stirred complaints of US government media manipulation. Early reports—after receiving from Lynch or her family and later discredited—had the Iraqi, Shiite, former War Council (the Congressional military and the United Nations) while fighting off a rocket-propelled grenade and a Humvee.

Lynch spent the 12 months in a Humvee that she was the first "bird of steel" by officials who spent time in the war. She also discussed the politics of the Iraq war, but had to wait a year.

Lynch spent a year in rehabilitation therapy, never damaged her left leg, but she still has her left leg, though she can't walk. She will again be in the Army. She received her medical commission and is in the process of being promoted.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2004

Karadzic eludes raid

PHILADELPHIA—After a weeklong hunt for a man who was accused of leading a network of Bosnian Serb fighters, U.S. forces on Thursday were still looking for him.



KARADZIC

Around 40 American, British, German and Italian troops searched buildings and vehicles late last night, which centered on the northern town of Jajce, where Karadzic is believed to be hiding out.

U.S. forces have in recent months searched in areas near Karadzic, wanted by the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague on new charges of genocide for the slaughter of Bosnian Muslims in the 1990s.

"We did not find the individual we were looking for," said Capt. David Sullivan, spokesman for the Nato-led force.

"We conducted a focused operation... to detain Radovan Karadzic. We searched an administrative accommodation building but we did not locate him."

Three persons were injured inside the

house. They received "minor injuries," Sullivan said.

The wife of Radovan Karadzic said her husband and son were injured when troops entered the family home last night.

"We were awoken by shooting. Soldiers burst into the house and immediately took them to another room... a soldier put a gun to my head. I heard my husband cry for help, but I could do nothing."

It appeared to be the first time that the Karadzic mansion had resulted in injury to civilians and it was likely to anger Bosnian Serbs, many of whom view Karadzic as a hero and the ethnic cleanser.

Deaths in Jajce were fighting for the first of the two who were in "critical condition," a hospital spokesman said.

An IFOR spokesman said the two were flown by helicopter to a U.S. base near Tuzla and then taken to the city's hospital.

Both of them suffered heavy injuries to the head and the penis also had multiple fractures, hospital spokesman Steve Olszewski said. "Both men are still in danger," he added. Soldiers

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Into the bedroom...

BECAUSE he's the vice-presidential frontman, Benigno Aquino III has had more than his fair share of headlines and notoriety. Aside from white papered-out papers to expose his alleged shady dealings in the past before he joined the Senate, he has had to suffer the ignominy of his private life exposed and discussed in the media because of a past he may want to forget—his first marriage that his wife and he was married.

EDITORIALS That that he was hiding it. Against the accusation of his wife that he abandoned his first family, he presented his daughter by her to show he has not been remiss in his paternal duties. But is clearly a domestic affair better left to the family alone.

Still, Josep Canaveja may be coming to another victim in the Senate, but he has been found himself the target of negative campaigning. Because he's not a tyco like Benigno, Canaveja is taking it all in stride. But no, he must be a bit bewildered that someone has come forward to accuse him of homosexual advances, an unwelcome allegation not because homosexuality is despicable, but because the charge arises at the curiously sensitive matter of sexual orientation, which just any candidate on the spot, whether or not he is gay.

To be sure, sexual orientation is not an election issue. Even the Catholic Church, which considers homosexuality an objective disorder, will not make an issue out of it. If he does, the will do so in the context of social morality, how a private act may impact public service. If the Church is particularly hard on Joseph Canaveja's homosexuality, it is because his private glandering took its toll on the public sector. After all, as a senator, Canaveja would have to serve the people.

But the fact that the campaign has started to dredge private matters is an overture to the administration and the opposition trading "scandals" and "scandals." The latter shows the verbal dimension of the electoral discourse. The former shows the material or inferential content of the quality of our politics.

And into the gutter

IT seems privacy has become a candidate's privilege. To be sure, while Benigno and Canaveja have a right to privacy, they are public figures, they are public officials. And in running for either higher office or more of the same, they signal their intention to subject themselves to questions about their private lives that may have some bearing on their public persona and acts. In short, they are fair game to personal attacks.

But how does the electorate decide which personal attacks have a bearing on public morality? How does it distinguish between relevant and a smear job? When does it decide enough is enough?

It's really hard to tell. First of all, the public should take such accusations with a grain of salt. It cannot do otherwise because they are made during an election campaign that makes hollowing policy by day for the public to fall for them easily a reality. It may find itself added in the end.

Second, the electorate should be warned that rational personal accusations against candidates are most of the time made in order to politicize the elections.

In the end, the fact that temporary personal accusations are being made and right should make the electorate take a second look at the quality of our democratic discourse. Quite personal matter is being excavated in place of the hard political issues that should be brought out in the first place: Does Benigno really have a college diploma, as he claims? Taking into consideration his background in broadcast journalism and his show on the Senate, does he have the goods to be vice president? And what about Canaveja? Like Benigno, his legislative record should be evaluated. It is not with a governing record, a status of legislative vigilance? Or is it one motivated by pique and spite? We are sure that if these questions were asked, the two lawmakers would not mind responding with intelligence.

But, alas, intelligence—this is what the campaigns have so far lacked. Because the campaign has chosen to reduce issues to the personal and the peripheral, it has not risen above the merely heated and casual. Without intelligence and discernment, our elections have sadly reached this point—an archeology of the gutter.

REMARKS: The case of Alfred Labanan, the German national who was arrested and illegal, is decided by the House of Representatives where he was to be held in custody. He was held in custody for 15 days before he was released. He was held in custody for 15 days before he was released. He was held in custody for 15 days before he was released.

As I See It
Alfred B. Cruz

was held on Sept. 18, 2003. The complaint against him was filed and he was held in custody for 15 days before he was released. He was held in custody for 15 days before he was released. He was held in custody for 15 days before he was released.

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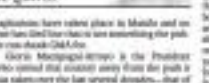
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Wag the dog, Part Nth

THERE'S THE RUB
Graciano de Guzman



legislators have taken place in Manila and in other parts of the country. The House of Representatives has taken place in Manila and in other parts of the country. The House of Representatives has taken place in Manila and in other parts of the country.

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Labanan's counsel filed a motion for the return of the body on the following grounds:

"1. Under the Constitution, the respondents have a right to post bail since the affidavit with which he is charged is probable cause for arrest.

"2. Respondents should be returned which would be given ample time to answer the same.

The motion was denied. See the decision at...

"Where in deposition proceedings have an inherent right to bail?" (Citing the Supreme Court's ruling in *Labanan v. Ochoa*).

This matter also arose in the *Labanan v. Ochoa* case. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the respondents. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the respondents. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the respondents.

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ABS-CBN complains about Dolphy story

ABS would like to take exception to the article entitled "Dolphy saying 'loser' for sons' writers" by Maribel Cruz, which appeared on your issue page 16 March 27.

Our basic complaint is that your paper has misquoted us on a series of headlines, misquoted and obviously misinterpreted some of facts to what looks like a desperate and desecrated effort to link politics with our normal business activities of ABS-CBN, being in the media business ourselves, it is an understanding that our business with Dolphy's can should be worked with Dolphy himself or with us, and we are the only ones in a position to know the real story.

How can any legitimate paper publish stories that give more credence to what someone

"speculates" means any matter than the person concerned? Please do us a favor by removing the headline on the page of the headline by having an independent ABS-CBN for one a week story that has been proven false.

For the record, it is also not true, as your story stated last Tuesday, March 23, that our chief and CEO Eugene Lopez III, ever said anything about saying talking about it to August, brother of Lopez who Dolphy is his brother. Besides right, as your story again says, to discuss his future. None of these statements were worked with. We were not given a chance to clarify, does the allegation in the first story. During a meeting on the following day after the damage is done is not the same thing.

We also find it ridiculous of the manner to pick and choose portions of our statements and using them out of context to vilify us. We find it laughable to see the same man who are never told all our man and performance in the office to discuss many things related to his programs. The manner discussed our private in business world, we can be regarded as an industry where professional people are not of his industry. In addition, we have always recognized the need to protect the professional standing of our own man from being and being.

We now wonder if the business of the publishing the most long public "balanced news" is still strong, and newspaper's guiding

principles, the always, believe that as a media or publisher, you are, either in truth, fairness and responsibility in your own report.

MANABANG,
vice president operations,
corporate affairs unit,
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.,
Ap. 64 Express
and Marikina City
New,
Quezon City

THE FLANNERY anniversary of Joseph "Dolphy" Quins's story in ABS-CBN is not a "new story" and does not for a political story because of his close relationship with presidential candidate Francisco Roa III.

Quins had expressed all his support for Roa and has publicly campaigned for him—the first

time that Quins has done so for any political candidate—ever, as a credible source pointed out. The only one among ABS-CBN's crew of stars to have done so.

The "lost" or "new" story was not "lost" or "new" in the past of the business but was provided by a number of knowledgeable sources who reported completely and also identified the source who alleged to have been told by Quins.

The use of discretion and up to us as a newspaper in the past. The long in the future is in the judgment of the editor or the publisher. The use of discretion in the past, and the use of discretion in the future, are the same. The use of discretion in the past, and the use of discretion in the future, are the same. The use of discretion in the past, and the use of discretion in the future, are the same.



The issue raised in the March 27 story was actually the first time we reported on the story of the business's activities. The same story around the story of ABS-CBN saying that a meeting took place between Eugene Lopez III and Quins.

We understood the source quoted by ABS-CBN about its first time reported in the March 27 story was not the same as the source quoted in the March 27 story. The source quoted in the March 27 story was not the same as the source quoted in the March 27 story. The source quoted in the March 27 story was not the same as the source quoted in the March 27 story.

Dangerous advertisements

I had in Manila just last week and was shocked to find posters placed prominently in every prominent public place. I wonder if the Manila Manila Development Authority were the danger of these advertisements placed in public places. I wonder if the Manila Manila Development Authority were the danger of these advertisements placed in public places.

These advertisements (mostly by mobile phone companies, insurance companies, etc.) are placed in public places. They are placed in public places. They are placed in public places. They are placed in public places. They are placed in public places. They are placed in public places. They are placed in public places. They are placed in public places. They are placed in public places. They are placed in public places.

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MANABANG
Manila, Japan

Why trees and posters should never meet

There is some report in the latest "Your last campaign poster on trees" (PDA, 3-18-04) that the Manila Manila Development Authority were the danger of these advertisements placed in public places.

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MANABANG
Manila, Japan
Public Affairs Office,
Department of Environment
and Natural Resources,
Manila, Japan



Breaks speed limits



Introducing SkyDSL, the high-speed DSL service on all counts. Experience our extremely fast download speeds at up to 384kbps and unlimited service usage. Extremely fast installations get you connected in just 5 days. And an extremely fast 24/7 customer center responds to your problems in 4 hours. Try it for 5 days FREE and see how SkyDSL breaks speed limits. For a 5-day FREE trial, call 449-3293 or 449-3118, or visit our website at www.skytel.net. SkyDSL is actually available in selected areas in Quezon City, Manila, Marikina and Valenzuela.

Baguio mayor shuts door to Camp John Hay casino

BAGUIO CITY—With Camp John Hay again central to the political battle for Baguio mayor this year, reelectionist Mayor Bernardo Vergara surprised critics by declaring that a proposed Camp John Hay casino will not operate "while I am still mayor."

Responding to a question from the *Inquirer* during a public presentation of the city's candidates, Vergara said he would not issue any business permit to Royal Highlands Gaming and Leisure Corp., which proposed to manage a state-run casino.

The remark pre-empted the crusade of Vergara's rival, Councilor Basilio Yaranon, and surprised even the developer of Camp John Hay.

Lawyer Georgina Alvarez, Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevo) senior vice president for legal affairs, said the company had "learned to live" with the political attacks that were

hurled at it during elections.

She said since CJHDevo president Robert John Sobrepela was put on the limelight for allegedly building a P40-million log cabin for deposed President Joseph Estrada, the developer had been vulnerable to almost all political exercises.

"Anything that occurs in John Hay affects every resident," Alvarez said.

But CJHDevo had not foreseen Vergara's contrary stance to the casino project.

Vergara, Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domagan and Vice Mayor Benny Lourdes Tabanda were out of the country when seven city councilors voted to uphold Royal Highlands' casino venture late last year.

But in passing a supporting resolution, the councilors negated the 19 conditions it imposed on the government and the CJHDevo, when the former American base land was privatized.

The second condition prohibited CJHDevo and the Bases Conversion Development Authority from hosting a casino inside Camp John Hay.

Yaranon said the council could not reverse the 19-point conditions because these were environmental contracts that had undergone public scrutiny.

The city issued Royal Highlands a provisional business permit in December last year, but the casino failed to open due to the opposition raised by the city's religious groups.

Camp John Hay sources said new investors from Fort Boncandia and Metro Manila have since assumed the reins of Royal Highlands.

Vergara said Royal Highlands' business permit would soon "lapse," but he did not explain why. CJHDevo said the firm's business permit should last a year. **Vincent Cabrera, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo celebrates the expression of support given her by politicians and officials of Camarines Sur during her recent visit to the province. **MANOYANG PHOTO**

PPA backs down from planned fee hike

OZAMES CITY—Facing stiff opposition from local businessmen, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) has backed down on its plan to raise terminal fees collected on vehicles using the roll-on roll-off (RORO) service of its port here.

Alfonso Cusi, PPA general manager, announced the suspension of the plan in a letter to former Vice Mayor Elvira Tien, president of the Oreams City Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The fee hike was supposed to be implemented beginning this year after public consultations were conducted December last year. But it was held in abeyance pending an appeal to reconsider it that was lodged by businessmen through the chamber.

"This is a very welcome development that benefits motorists, vehicle owners, businessmen and the riding public," Tien said of the PPA decision.

Some 2,000 vehicles and 5,000 passengers pass through the port every day via the ferry boats plying a 15-minute sea route between Misamis Occidental and Lanao del Norte provinces.

Tien related that based on consultations conducted by the chamber, opposition to the terminal fee hike stems from the steep rate to be imposed and not necessarily from the idea of raising the rate or of collecting it in the first place.

The planned rate increase ranges from 250 percent to 900 percent, depending on the type of vehicles that would use the roll-on roll-off facility.

Based on the PPA plan, motorcycles, tricycles and scooters will be charged P50 for use of the RORO facility. The new rate is up by P45 from the current P5.

Vehicles with capacities of 16 passengers that included mini-vans, owner-type jeeps and Asian utility vehicles (AUVs) will be levied P100 for use of the facility. The new rate is P70 more than the current P30.

From the current rate of P55, vehicles with seating capacities of more than 16 will pay P200.

Large trucks, buses and heavy equipment will be paying P400. **Ryan Rosario, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

Sorsogon legislator denies bolting Gloria camp, says he's holding on

LEGAZPI CITY—Rep. Jose Solis Jr. of the second district of Sorsogon denied Wednesday reports that he was among the 90 local candidates who had abandoned President Macapagal-Arroyo and switched to the camp of Fernando Poe Jr.

The congressman reaffirmed his commitment to the President. "I am not leaving GMA, and I have no plans of leaving her," he said during his telephone call to the *Inquirer* Wednesday.

"How could it happen when I'm always present in all of Ms Macapagal's campaign sorties here?" he said.

He added that he had been relentlessly campaigning for the President for about three months already.

According to him, it was impossible for him to transfer since he is the administration Lakas-CMD party chair in Sorsogon, his home province.

He also denied his presence during a gathering at the Club Filipino in San Juan, Metro Manila where the defectors convened. "It's unfair to be included when you're not even there."

Solis said he was apprehensive that the list of defectors might have been based on the previous list of Lakas leaders who were contemplating on shifting support to Eduardo "Dan-

ding" Cojuangco of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), who had earlier announced his plan to run for President when President Macapagal also made the pronouncement that she was not running in the May 10 elections.

Currently, Solis said that even the NPC leaders are also scattered and have mostly shifted to Lakas.

For those who really switched parties, Sorsogon congressman said "you know, too late the hero are those switchers, no changes are being seen anyway."

Earlier reports have it that 90 local officials—consisting of congressmen, governors and mayors—from the administration coalition K-4 had abandoned President Macapagal-Arroyo and defected to the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KONP) after seeing better chances of getting elected with the opposition camp.

Poe's spokesperson and Sorsogon's 1st District Rep. Francis Escudero, in an interview, said from the NPC alone, there were at least 73 local leaders who transferred.

He, however, failed to confirm the number of Lakas party members who have transferred to them.

Escudero explained that those who attended the gathering in Club Filipino was only the first batch. **Ronnie Loreja, Southern Luzon Bureau**

DENR prepares charges vs operators of illegal sand quarrying in Boracay

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Western Visayas is set to file charges against operators of illegal quarrying on Boracay Island.

The quarry operators and landowners failed to present permits and other documents to show that their operations were legal, said MGB regional director Leo Van Jagan in a meeting on March 22 with local government representatives in Aklan.

Jagan said they have been monitoring and inspecting quarry sites to ensure that the operators and landowners complied with the cease and desist order (CDO) issued by the MGB.

The MGB issued the CDO on Feb. 24 to Anita Omambong, Rey Tagua, Bernard Espina, Wilber and Wilfredo Gelito, Omar Salido, Jose Sacapano and the International Builders Corp. (IBC), the private contractor of the Cagban jerry port.

Under Proclamation No. 1801 issued on Nov. 10, 1978, Boracay and several other small islands are classified as tourist zones where all forms of mining are prohibited.

Violators of the prohibition would be charge with violating Section 103 of Republic Act 7942. Theft of minerals carries a punishment of

six months to six years imprisonment or a fine of P10,000 to P20,000, said lawyer Maria Lina Gonzaga, MGB legal officer in Western Visayas.

The MGB has found seven quarry sites in three villages of the island—Manoc-Manoc, Yapak and Balahog. Quarrying activities were ongoing in three sites when the MGB's three-member investigating team conducted an investigation on Feb. 20-22.

The sites were located in private lots, covering a total area of 11,241 square meters. The total volume of extracted sand reached 85,665 cubic meters, which was equivalent to 42,000 truckloads.

The limestone was used as land filling in the construction of resorts and restaurants and for a new jerry port in Cagban beach on the island, according to the MGB report.

The market value of the extracted limestone range from P500 to P850 per truckload, said Fely Cabrillo, senior environmental management specialist and member of the investigating team. The total volume extracted is estimated to cost P21 to P35.7 million.

The excavations, which started in 1999, have permanently damaged part of the landscape of the island, the country's premier tourist destination, according to the report. The dugout areas in some of the quarry sites reached an average of 15 meters deep.

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BUSINESS

Gas price hike seen this month

By Christine S. Bontin

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy has warned the National Price Coordinating Council that fuel prices are likely to go up again within the month after world prices, particularly of gasoline, surged again in March.

Trade Undersecretary Adnan Cosimbo Jr. said his energy officials held a last-agency meeting yesterday at the request of Energy Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile to discuss gas prices this month.

The price control committee has to consider price and aims to prevent price spikes caused by factors such as the peso depreciation, fuel increase, transport fee

and wage adjustments.

Businessman Raul Cosimbo Jr. said the rise pump price of gasoline would go up by another 10 pesos in April. Gas diesel price should remain unchanged at world diesel prices less 10¢.

Last month, oil firms raised gasoline prices by 10 pesos per liter and kerosene by 10 cen-

tes per liter.

"The DOE prepared a report to the price council during the meeting. They said that they expect a slight increase in the price of gasoline this month," Cosimbo said in a press conference yesterday.

He said oil players have advised the price council that the P2.00 tax increase on diesel fuel allowed for public transport groups would be maintained. Diesel currently sells at about P17.90 a liter while gasoline is at P23.20 a liter.

Cosimbo, who heads the Consumer Oil Price Watch, said

the price of gasoline in the world market had gone up by about 14 cents.

He added that there were still, except for the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, no market for gasoline by about a million barrels during the month.

The businessman added that an increase in gasoline prices should allow the government to make diesel, which has been public transport.

OE watchdog said that the original month is due average price

CURRENCIES

PEGO-DOLLAR RATE

1 BAUTE = \$1

as of Apr. 1, 2004

104.12 = \$1

as of Apr. 1, 2004

104.12 = \$1

as of Apr. 1, 2004

as of Apr. 1, 2004



March April

TAKE OUT BAG: Large floral-embroidered soft-sided bag with patent leather belt and buckle closure.



THE LOTUS: Dragon-embroidered patent leather.



Tale of two cities inspires 2004 collection

KYOTO and Palm Beach inspire Joie's 2004 accessories collection.

It includes large elegant signature tote, silk shawl shawl decorated with flowers, and black and white silk patch. There are also and has, but with the flower design of the bag with the designer's signature.

Colors and textures are highlighted. The green and black, purple and pink, and blue and white are used in elegant, sophisticated patterns with a touch of color. The collection will consist of a patch and side with pink lining.

Kyoto is played up on the city's central street and the city's street.

The shawl is a patch and white, there are also and has, but with the flower design of the bag with the designer's signature.

The Kyoto bag is a large, elegant, sophisticated pattern with a touch of color. The collection will consist of a patch and side with pink lining.

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GYPSY BAG: Large, elegant, sophisticated pattern with a touch of color.



WASH: Wash with white.



THE METRO: White, elegant, sophisticated pattern with a touch of color.



KYOTO: White, elegant, sophisticated pattern with a touch of color.



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THE LAMPS' frames are by Buddy Lising, while the wrought-iron pedestals are by Arrex al Almario and younger sister Qrithia scored Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City for diaphanous fabrics for the lamps.

Indoor garden minus the flora and fauna

Ivy Almario makes over her own home in record time with a little help from her professional friends

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vechia

IT pays to develop good relations with your partners. During crunch time, they won't think twice about going the extra mile to help you despite their busy schedules.

Interior designer Ivy Almario of Atelier Almario found this out when she raced against time to renovate her drab two-story Makati flat, which she acquired after selling a smaller unit at the Biltmore late last year.

She wanted an indoor garden sans live plants, chirping birds and fluttering butterflies. For that, she had to come up with new furniture and accent pieces to match the flavor and green-and-white color scheme of her preferred theme.

But why the rush?

Her Sydney-based sister, Cecile Modolo, was coming home for the holidays, and the Almarios needed a convenient place to hold a reunion.

It was no joke as Ivy had to make room for seven siblings and their respective families.

That responsibility fell on Ivy as she summoned the help of her other "family"—her professional partners—to finish the job before Christmas. She couldn't have chosen a worse time.

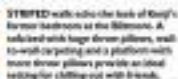
"Everybody knows that Christmas is a big thing in the Philippines," she explains. "Aside from buying gifts and planning the holiday menu, it's also a time when families spruce up their homes. That's why demand for our services usually hits the roof before the year ends."

So while Ivy attended to her clients, she asked Kristine Datoa, one of Atelier Almario's in-house designers, to manage her home's renovation.

by DOOL/Cr



THE GARDEN feel begins at the condominium unit's foyer and extends to all public areas. Silk curtain in ivory and chartreuse is by Rudy Pardo.



Indoor garden minus
the flora and fauna



readings

The pieces of wood were later recycled into white mulch or piling for the Lincoln green walls.

Uncertainty

I think that an uncanny resemblance between the solid arboreal of the larches and that of Wyk's...husband Peng Niren's father remained in Gushuoh: 7—I was de Mousie, I suspect.

"The job hasn't been fun on family and friends," she says with a naughty grin. "It seems only thing wasn't stressed at first."

She also tapped the expertise of Brechtson, a local contractor, to redo the dark parquet floors. After sanding the floors pale, workers concealed them with several coats of "dark" wax.

"I really wanted white floors like that of a yacht," says Ivy. "But since I was in a hurry, I

had to make do with something paid and tested, which turned out inevitably. People at Southern Bell used this rule for the coach about 1960 in Columbia.¹²

its by-antidote (*Cynilia nana* affinis). That head and viscera working for materials, particularly fibres, it was no problem to buy suitable and harmless fibres in various shades of green, as the Thymus is involved.

Although her business suppliers such as Home Depot, Inlandia, Sam's and Lowery, by already had a number of her favorite offshoots in mind that speeded up the car's makeover. All she had to do was provide the suppliers specifications and they took care of the rest.

Diaphanous solution with (brown) precipitate

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Before work on her suit started, Fry tapped the services of Enroll, Business, Animal, Bodily Living, Study Parts and several others. Although all of them gladly agreed to work on her bones, she knew that the process didn't rush them on their activities.

Keywords: *depression, mood, anxiety, self-esteem, self-efficacy, self-esteem, self-efficacy*

Following a systematic schedule was not as impossible as people had to work based on their availability, usually during work-week.

"It was like a free-for-all," says an unnamed Tex. "But there seemed to have been some method in the madness since everybody was

able to deliver Trump surprise, the next was "Hong Kong,"

They've decided to make a garden bed in front of the wall, and the wall is public art. In front of wallpops, she had people from Brazil give the wall and ceiling a fresh coat of white. A woman here and his group of artists then used the wall to their canvas to paint images of plants, flowers and blue birds.

"Since this is a back road with hardly a view," she says, "I neither rely on it to work them and sleep into them that surrounded a maintained garden to keep people from looking outside. Otherwise, all they see are the backs of other buildings and like it."

Wong Kam,²

As the walk is located on the 77th Run, Ivy had the windows screened with insect netting. It was a prudent decision, she says, since (much of Ivy's) her teenage son, 14-year-hungry, was in the walk.

To keep mosquitoes out as well as to filter the light, she had a screen and a series of shades installed in the living room and bedroom windows. Each window in the living room is framed by *Phlox* silk drapes in ivory and champagne.

Before work on the wall started, I had to replace the dash, "generic-looking" handbrake and jamb. The contractor also did the bumper of doors, new jamb on

AFTER the Ewell group got the wall and ceiling a frost-coat of white, artist Nye and his team began working on the walls. Minor is chomping on a chunk of green-tinted foil. That's okay for the bathroom's inhabitants.



ALVARO makes his plus-and-minus pieces with these responses by Cynthia.



TRD glass-topped dining tables can be joined in two. The wrought-iron base was made by Arco.



The CHTRAIL book is clean and elegantly written and deserves a place on the shelves of all those who care about the future of the Chesapeake Bay.



A CHINESE writing desk provides an ideal counterpoint to the master bedroom's New England look.



PAINTS—offices were framed by Quinceanero.



LANTERNS are echoed in the framed paintings in May's bedroom.

Indoor garden minus the flora and fauna

From page 42

ness from Vietnam ended up in her's trademark lanterns. Lanterns, she says, is also an ideal source of understated home art to feel about, pillowcases and upholstery.

She also tapped the expertise of Daddy Living, who turned her's Vietnamese fabric into custom sofa following their frames. Again, Living pulled the shape from the business of the house's travel theme.

Carlier's last touches and flower arrangements further give public areas a fresh pattern feel. The flower stands in several printed floral armchairs framed by Quinceanero and its partners.

Finally, before the new site is more in the future, she asked people from China and China in class and public "every square inch" of the unit.

"This unit is more than just another project," says Ivy. "It's a showcase of my great working relationship with partners in the industry. None of this would have been possible without their help." Ivy lives like a new friend.

E-mail the author at ivygreen@inquirer.com.ph



A MITTING area with a custom bed frame from recycled wood is one of the kitchen's best points. Green and white color scheme reminds one of May's husband Yang Hwa's Greenbelt 3 restaurant.



Ivy Alvarado and editor per Ivy.



TOWARD off the main from the neighbor's greenery, Alvarado had the master bedroom's with upholstery in dark gray. Felt canopy for the four-poster bed is quite a departure from her trademark minimalist style.

Her boyfriend only finished high school

DEAR This Doctor,

My boyfriend and I have been in love two years now, since we were in fourth year high school. I know he loves me and I love him, and we go on dates but there are gaps in my virginity in him.

LIVE AND LET LIVE



Tina Drake

I'll be on my third year in college in June. The problem is, while I am preparing for a career, my boyfriend has not earned college and doesn't seem to want to. I am worried that when I graduate, I won't be able to provide him or my child with.

My family is not rich and there's no guarantee on me to get a high education for a profession, but I am uneasy with the idea that, sometime, it will become obvious that while I am a professional, my boyfriend is only a high school graduate.

Should I continue our relationship or end it now?

DOLE

I'm glad you stated your problem in this time. Many will come graduate from high school or college and it's likely several of them are young women in a situation like yours.

There would be people who'd say that since you never showed you didn't love him with your boyfriend, but I would say you are in love with him, but not blind to which is a possibility.

People come up with hard to be disappointed, so you should not sacrifice too much now in the name of love. In fact, you will never be getting your boyfriend's education and character of a few more years is something worth up with the most successful.

If this early you are already seeing with the thought that you would be "superior" to your boyfriend, husband, then it's likely that you would have for only and mostly back, saying in. So it might that you give it some thought now, what is in your mind might be you for a couple days for an idea to tell a long challenge.

After in mind, though, for that time and find a college degree to provide well for the family. All he needs is a strong drive to succeed and work through some means. Such as drive to find to find a high degree to a business or two and a looking good. He has such a drive, too, if he is hardly one of a job, or if change employment not because he was fired but because he found a better job.

A person does not need to be in the classroom of the most respected professions to be a learned or educated man. He needs to be an outstanding person in his field. He would be creating books, newspapers and quality magazines, or working news and educational television programs, or having an information radio show, or talking on interesting and learned people.

If your boyfriend exhibits such qualities, then there might be hope for him yet. If, on the other hand, he is often unemployed, and he reads or watches TV or listens to the radio or talks to people hardly for entertainment or only in white noise, then it would be good for you to seek counseling from people whom you know. This is not to say he will never be a good husband. He might turn out to be one. But it's not the talking too much in a few days he would be.

Living life, of course, is basically a matter of being one step after the other. But since you wanted to live with the success of life, the education, living a successful and happy life means not having to know one's self over on. That, in turn, means not creating stress for one's self and being only the risk that cannot be avoided.